Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Connector (10) for a duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to a carding machine (2),

the said connector extending along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and having an upstream portion (14), from where the said fibre arrives, and a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2), and

also comprising means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, the said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect the same stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector (10) towards the side duct (18) of the latter,

in which ~~connector is characterized in that the~~ said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre have a longitudinal length ~~approximately equal to the longitudinal length of the foot print of the said through opening (20) of the side duct (18) of the connector,~~ as projected onto a plane passing through the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector, so as to channel the said fibre in an ~~essentially~~ uniform manner towards the carding machine (2),~~.~~

and in which said side duct (18) has a centre plane (M-M) perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector (10),

and in which the connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of the longitudinal axis (Y Y) of the connector from the through opening (20),

and in which said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the upper wall (26) of the connector (10),

and in which the deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting from the upper wall (26) of the connector towards the through opening (20) of the side duct (18),

and in which said step (28) has a forward surface (30) which is struck, during normal operation of the processing line, by the stream of fibre, a lower surface (32) of longitudinal extension and, opposite the forward surface (30), a rear surface (34).

2. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 1, also comprising a downstream portion (16) for feeding the fibre to a subsequent carding machine, the said deflection means (22) being able to deflect at least some of the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) towards the side duct (18).

3. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 1, also comprising a closing wall (100), the said deflection means (22) being able to deflect the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) towards the side duct (18) connected to an end-of-line carding machine.

4. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceeding claims~~, in which the said deflection means (22) form an obstacle which at least partly ~~intersepts~~ intercepts the stream of transported fibre.

5. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of the preceeding claims~~ Claim 1, in which ~~the~~ said ~~side duct (18) has a centre plane (M-M)~~ means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre extend symmetrically with respect ~~perpendicular~~ to the ~~said longitudinal axis (Y-Y)~~ centre plane of the side duct (18) of the connector ~~(10)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 5, in which ~~the~~ said ~~means (22)~~ lower surface (30) ~~for deflecting the stream of~~ fibre ~~extend~~ is symmetrical about ~~to~~ the ~~said~~ centre plane of the ~~side duct~~ through opening ~~(18)~~ (20) of the ~~connector~~ side duct (18).

7. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 7 ~~any one of the preceeding claims~~, in which ~~the~~ said lower surface (30) ~~connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of said longitudinal axis~~

~~(Y-Y) of the connector from the said through opening (20) through which the fibre passes~~ is parallel to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector.

8. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 7, in which ~~the~~ said ~~means (22)~~ lower surface (30) ~~for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10)~~ has a longitudinal length equal to the longitudinal length of the through opening (20) of the side duct (18).

9. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim ~~8~~ 1, in which ~~the~~ said deflection means (22) are integral with ~~able to channel the said fibre in an essentially uniform manner towards the carding machine (2)~~ the upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

10. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~7 to 9~~, in which the ~~said~~ deflection means (22) are removable from ~~integral with~~ the ~~said~~ upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

11. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of the~~ Claim 1 ~~Claims 7 to 9~~, in which the ~~said~~ side duct (18) comprises walls (40) ~~deflection means (22) are removable from the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 11 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the ~~said deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting from an upper wall (26) of the said connector towards the through opening (20) of the~~ side duct (18) is joined to the upstream portion (14) by a first bevel wall (41).

13. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 12, also comprising a downstream portion (16) for feeding the fibre to a subsequent carding machine, the said deflection means (22) being able to deflect at least some of the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) towards the side duct (18), and in which the ~~said step (28) comprises at~~

~~least one lead in wall to join the upper wall (26) to the said step (28)~~ side duct 18 is joined to the downstream portion (16) by a second bevel (42).

14. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to claim 1, in which the means (22) for deflecting the stream of air and fibre extend all the way across the through opening (20) ~~any one of the preceding claims, in which the said side duct (18) comprises walls (40)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 1 ~~14~~, in which the front surface (30) is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) ~~said side duct (18) is jointed to the said upstream portion (14) by a first bevel wall (41)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 1 ~~14 or 15~~, in which the front surface (30) ~~said side duct (18)~~ is ~~joined to the downstream portion (16) by a second level (42)~~ a forward lead-in wall inclined to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to a carding machine, comprising a c~~Connector (10) according to claim 1, ~~to any one of the preceding claims~~ in which the rear surface (34) is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y).

18. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) ~~Duct (1)~~ according to Claim 1 ~~17~~, in which the rear surface (34) is a rear lead-in wall inclined to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y)~~said duct is connected to fan means (6)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) Duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to a carding machine, comprising a connector (10), ~~according to Claim 18, in which the said fan means (6) comprise a fan (8)~~ wherein the connector extends along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and has an upstream portion (14), from where the said fibre arrives, and a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2), and

also comprises means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, the said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect the said

stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector (10) towards the side duct (18) of the latter,

in which said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre having a longitudinal length, as projected onto a plane passing through the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector, so as to channel the said fibre in an uniform manner towards the carding machine (2),

and in which said side duct (18) has a centre plane (M-M) perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector (10),

and in which the connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector from the through opening (20),

and in which said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the upper wall (26) of the connector (10),

and in which the deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting from the upper wall (26) of the connector towards the through opening (20) of the side duct (18),

and in which said step (28) has a forward surface (30) which is struck, during normal operation of the processing line, by the stream of fibre, a lower surface (32) of longitudinal extension and, opposite the forward surface (30), a rear surface (34).

20. (Currently Amended) Duct (1) ~~Connector (10) for a duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to at least one carding machine (2)~~ according to claim 19, in which the duct is connected to fan means (6).

~~the said connector extending along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and having, between an upstream portion (14) from where the said fibre arrives and a downstream portion (16) for transporting the fibre to a subsequent carding machine, a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2) and a centre plane (M-M) perpendicular to the said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and~~

~~also comprising means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, the said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect at least some of the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector (10) towards the side duct (18) of the latter,~~

~~which connector is characterized in that the said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre extend symmetrically with respect to the said centre plane (M-M) of the side duct (18) of the connector (10), in such a way as to channel the said fibre in an essentially uniform manner towards the carding machine (2).~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Connector (10) for a~~ dDuct (1) ~~for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to at least one carding machine(2)~~ according to claim 20, in which the fan means (6) comprise a fan (8).

~~the said connector (10) extending along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and having, between an upstream portion (14) from where the said fibre arrives and a downstream portion (16) for transporting the fibre to a subsequent carding machine, a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2), and~~

~~in which the said connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of the said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector (10) from the said through opening (20) of the fibre,~~

~~the said connector (10) also comprising means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, the said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect at least some of the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector towards the side duct (18) of the latter,~~

~~which connector is characterized in that the said means for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10) in such a way as to channel the said fibre in an essentially uniform manner towards the carding machine (2).~~

22. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 21, in which the said deflection means (22) have a stepped configuration.

23. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 22, in which the said step is integral with the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

24. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) for a duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to an end-of-line carding machine(2),

the said connector extending along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and having an upstream portion (14), from where the said fibre arrives, and a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2), and

also comprising means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, and said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect the said stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector (10) towards the side duct (18) of the latter,

which connector is characterized in that the said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre have a longitudinal length substantially ~~approximately~~ equal to the longitudinal length of the footprint of the said through opening (20) of the side duct (18) of the connector, as projected onto a plane passing through the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector, so as to channel the said fibre in a substantially ~~an essentially~~ uniform manner towards the carding machine (2), wherein the said side duct (18) has a centre plane (M-M) perpendicular to the said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector (10), and the said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre extend symmetrically with respect to the said centre plane of the side duct (18) of the connector.

25-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) Connector according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 24 ~~to 26~~to, in which the said connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of the said longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector from the said through opening (20) through which the fibre passes.

28. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 27, in which the said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

29. (Currently Amended) Connector (10) according to Claim 28, in which the said deflection means (22) are able to channel the said fibre in a substantially ~~an essentially~~ uniform manner towards the carding machine (2).

30. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 27 ~~to 29~~, in which the said deflection means (22) are integral with the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

31. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 27 ~~to 29~~, in which the said deflection means (22) are removable from the said upper wall (26) of the connector (10).

32. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 24 ~~to 31~~, in which the said deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting form an upper wall (26) of the said connector towards the through opening (20) of the side duct (18).

33. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 32, in which the said step (28) comprises at least one lead-in wall to join the upper wall (26) to the said step (28).

34. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 24 ~~to 33~~, in which the said side duct (18) comprises walls (40).

35. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 34, in which the said side duct (18) is joined to the said upstream portion (14) by a first bevel wall (41).

36. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 24 ~~to 35~~, also comprises a closing wall (100) which closes the feeding duct and channels the fibre towards the said carding machine.

37. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 36, in which the said closing wall (100) is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the duct.

38. (Original) Connector (10) according to Claim 36, in which the said closing wall (100) is inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the duct.

39. (Currently amended) Connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 36 ~~to 38~~, also comprises a second bevel wall (42) joining the said closing wall (100) to the said side duct (18).

40. (Currently amended) Duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to a carding machine, comprising a connector (10) according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 24 ~~to 39~~.